

Article 7C.

Beach Management Plan.

§ 113A-134.11. Department to compile and evaluate information.

The Department of Environmental Quality shall compile and evaluate information on the current conditions and erosion rates of beaches, on coastal geology, and on storm and erosion hazards for use in developing a State plan and strategy for beach management and restoration. The Department of Environmental Quality shall make this information available to local governments for use in land-use planning. (2000-67, s. 13.9(b); 2015-241, s. 14.30(u).)

§ 113A-134.12. Multiyear beach management and restoration strategy and plan.

(a) The Department of Environmental Quality shall develop a multiyear beach management and restoration strategy and plan that does all of the following:

- (1) Utilizes the data and expertise available in the Divisions of Water Resources, Coastal Management, and Energy, Mineral, and Land Resources.
- (2) Identifies the erosion rate at each beach community and estimates the degree of vulnerability to storm and hurricane damage.
- (3) Uses the best available geological and geographical information to determine the need for and probable effectiveness of beach nourishment.
- (4) Provides for coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the North Carolina Department of Transportation, the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management, and other State and federal agencies concerned with beach management issues.
- (5) Provides a status report on all U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' beach protection projects in the planning, construction, or operational stages.
- (6) Makes maximum feasible use of suitable sand dredged from navigation channels for beach nourishment to avoid the loss of this resource and to reduce equipment mobilization costs.
- (7) Promotes inlet sand bypassing where needed to replicate the natural flow of sand interrupted by inlets.
- (8) Provides for geological and environmental assessments to locate suitable materials for beach nourishment.
- (9) Considers the regional context of beach communities to determine the most cost-effective approach to beach nourishment.
- (10) Provides for and requires adequate public beach access, including handicapped access.
- (11) Recommends priorities for State funding for beach nourishment projects, based on the amount of erosion occurring, the potential damage to property and to the economy, the benefits for recreation and tourism, the adequacy of public access, the availability of local government matching funds, the status of project planning, the adequacy of project engineering, the cost-effectiveness of the project, and the environmental impacts.
- (12) Includes recommendations on obtaining the maximum available federal financial assistance for beach nourishment.
- (13) Is subject to a public hearing to receive citizen input.

(b) Each plan shall be as complete as resources and available information allow. Environmental Quality (2000-67, ss. 13.9(c), (d); 2012-143, s. 1(f); 2015-241, s. 14.30(u); 2017-10, s. 4.9.)